



half a million ECU for emergency assistance to victims of the latest round of fighting. We have made substantial additional contributions to UNRWA and ICRC this year. We hope that the national reconciliation talks to which all parties directly involved have been invited will help, in spite of the latest delay to bring stability to Lebanon under its legitimate government and thereby improve the situation of civilians throughout the country.

I hope that the Interfaith Group on Lebanon will continue its useful work and that the leaders of our religious communities will maintain their lively interest in the problem. Their shared concern is especially valuable in bringing home to all involved the need to give special care and protection, irrespective of race or creed, to those least able to protect themselves.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Howe', with a horizontal line above it and a short horizontal stroke below it.

GEOFFREY HOWE